

# The Wild Christmas Reindeer



# The Wild Christmas Reindeer

Book by Jan Brett

Unit study by Kim Fry

Printables by Ami

## *Social Studies*

### Geography

Find the North Pole on a map or globe.

The North Pole is located in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic is inhabited by people unlike the Antarctic (South Pole).

The North Pole is significantly warmer than the South Pole. Winter (January) temperatures at the North Pole can range from about  $-43^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-45^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) to  $-26^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), perhaps averaging around  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Summer temperatures (June, July and August) average around freezing point ( $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). During the summer months, the North Pole experiences twenty-four hours of daylight daily but during the winter months the North Pole experiences twenty-four hours of darkness daily. Sunrise and sunset do not occur in a twenty-four hour cycle.

### Geography: Norway

Read through [this page of Jan Brett's News Notes](#). Based on what she tells us, we can assume the setting of this story is Norway. Use the Norway printables to learn more about this country.

**Official Name:** Kingdom of Norway

**Size:** 125,021 square miles

**Capital:** Oslo

**Official Language:** Norwegian

**Products:** Norway produces barley, wheat potatoes, pork, beef, veal, milk, and fish.

**Major Industries:** Major industries include petroleum and natural gas, food processing, shipbuilding, paper products, metals, chemicals, timber, mining, textiles, and fishing.

**Currency:** Norwegian krone

**Climate:** Norway's climate is milder along the coast, but colder inland and in the arctic regions. Inland and the arctic regions also have more rain and snow.

**Population:** For current information, use this website: [Population of Countries](#)

**Comparing Times:** To compare the time in the capital city to the time where you live, use this website: [The World Clock](#)

#### **Human Relationships: Emotions** (pg. 2)

Discuss times when you feel excited and scared all at once like Teeka did (pg. 2).

#### **Human Relationships: Diplomacy** (pg. 6)

Discuss how best to negotiate with a person without humiliating them or attacking their pride. You could even role play some different situations. Discuss the different ways Teeka could have responded to the reindeer.

#### **Human Relationships: Kindness and Compassion** (pg. 20)

Kindness is showing or growing out of gentleness or goodness of heart.

Compassion is sorrow or pity caused by the suffering or misfortune of another

How were these traits exhibited? Discuss ways your student can be kind to those around him. In what ways can he be compassionate this season?

### ***Language Arts***

#### **Story Discussion**

Discuss how Teeka changed by the end of the story. Encourage your student to site evidence from the text to illustrate.

#### **Story Within a Story and Creative Writing**

Discuss the story within the story by observing the sidebar pictures that Jan Brett is notorious for. Encourage your student to narrate a story about elves preparing for

Christmas; encourage your older student to write his story from the elf's perspective.

### **Story Inspiration**

[Read pages 1-2 of Jan Brett's News Notes](#) to learn how she generated her idea for this story.

### **Beginning, Middle, End**

Jan Brett states that every story must have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Use the prepared page to record this story's beginning, middle, and end.

### **Creative Writing/Listmaking**

The story lists the names of the reindeer. Have your student write them out (Bramble, Heather, Windswept, Lichen, Snowball, Crag, Twilight, and Tundra). Does your student also know the traditional names of Santa's reindeer? (Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen.) Have him write those out as well. Now, ask your student to make his own list. What would he name eight reindeer?

### **Vocabulary**

*Lichen- any of numerous plantlike living things made up of an alga and a fungus growing together on a solid surface*

*Tundra- a treeless plain especially of arctic regions having a permanently frozen layer below the surface soil and plant life made up mostly of mosses, lichens, herbs, and very small shrubs*

*Frantic- wildly excited*

*Bolted- to move rapidly; to run away*

*Nudged- to touch or push gently*

*Nestled- to lie close and snug*

*Sleek- having a smooth healthy well-groomed look*

*Bold- willing to meet danger or take risks*

*Bossed- to be in charge; to give orders in a demanding way*

### **Synonyms and Such**

Crag cracked a reindeer grin. Bramble giggled . . . Tundra laughed and Twilight smiled.

Jan Brett uses lots of words to indicate that the reindeer are happy. Use the "If

You're Happy and You Know It" page to record the different words Brett uses. Think of other phrases and ways to show someone is happy and record them on the page as well.

### The Letter R

Teach your younger student the letter R (for reindeer) and how to print it.

### *Art*

#### Discussion Questions

What is detail? Why do Jan Brett's drawings have so much detail? What do you think inspired the drawings in this story? What do you think inspired the storyline? Look carefully at all the details.

Try your hand at a detailed drawing of what you would imagine the North Pole to look like if Santa lived and worked there.

### *Applied Math*

#### Eight

Ask your student how many reindeer there are in this story (Bramble, Heather, Windswept, Lichen, Snowball, Crag, Twilight, and Tundra). There are eight. If your student is young (or if you have a younger sibling along for the ride), teach her how to write the number 8. Gather groups of 8 objects from around the house.

You can use the reindeer cards and number cards for a matching game. You can also use them for addition and subtraction practice (There were four reindeer in the barn and 3 more came in. How many are in the barn now? Teeka had 8 reindeer but 2 ran away. Now how many reindeer does she have?)

For your older student, practice skip counting by 8's (8, 16, 24, 32, 40, etc.) or work with the family of 8 multiplication facts. You could even write up some story problems involving the reindeer for your student to solve.

#### Calendar Skills

As you look through the border illustrations, you see the calendar changing. Use

the printable provided to make a calendar for the month of December. Be sure to mark all special days!

## ***Science***

### **Reindeer**

The reindeer, known as caribou when wild in North America, is an Arctic and Subarctic-dwelling deer. Reindeer are found throughout the world including places such as Scandinavia (including Iceland); in Finland; in Russian Europe including Northern Russia; in Russian Asia; in North America on Greenland, Canada, and Alaska.

The weight of a female varies between 60 and 170 kg. In some subspecies of reindeer, the male is slightly larger; in others, the male can weigh up to 300 kg. Both sexes grow antlers, which (in the Scandinavian variety) for old males fall off in December, for young males in the spring and for females during the summer. The antlers typically have two separate groups of points (see image), a lower and upper. Domesticated animals (reindeer) are shorter-legged and heavier than their wild counterparts (caribou). The caribou of North America can run at speeds up to 50 miles per hour and may travel 3,000 miles in a year.

Reindeers are ruminants, having a four-chambered stomach. They mainly eat lichens in winter, especially reindeer moss. However, they also eat the leaves of willows and birches, as well as sedges and grasses. They can also eat voles, lemmings, birds and bird eggs.

### **Biomes**

A biome is a large ecosystem where plants, animals, insects, and people live in a certain type of climate. There are many different types of biomes throughout the world. This story, *The Wild Christmas Reindeer*, takes place in the Arctic Tundra. *Read One Small Square: Arctic Tundra* with your student.

## ***Just for Fun***

### **Cooking- Reindeer Cookies**

#### **Ingredients**

1 cup Brown sugar  
1 cup Sugar  
1 cup Butter, softened  
1 cup Peanut Butter (smooth)  
3 cups Flour  
2 Eggs  
2 teaspoons Baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon Salt  
1 teaspoon Vanilla

#### Directions

Cream the butter and sugars, eggs and peanut butter, salt and vanilla. Add the soda and flour and mix well. Roll into balls. Flatten the ball and shape it into a triangle. Place pretzel pieces into 2 of the triangle corners for antlers. Place a red M-M at the other corner (Rudolph's red nose), and 2 green M-Ms on the cookie for eyes. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown.

#### Cooking- Reindeer Cookies II

1 cup sifted powdered sugar  
2 tablespoons whipping cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
12 (2 1/2 inch) square graham crackers  
24 semisweet chocolate mini morsels  
12 red cinnamon candies  
12 miniature pretzels broken in half

Combine the first three ingredients in a small bowl, stir well and set aside. Cut the graham crackers in half diagonally using a serrated knife, using a sawing motion. Spread a little frosting over half of the cracker and top with remaining half to form a triangle. Spread the top with frosting to cover top of cracker. Press two chocolate morsels into each frosted cracker for eyes, 1 cinnamon candy for the nose and 2 pretzel halves for antlers. Let dry on wire rack.

#### Cooking- Reindeer Faces

1 slice bread  
peanut butter  
4 mini pretzels

4 raisins

2 mini marshmallows, maraschino cherries or red-hot cinnamon candies

Cut bread in half from corner to corner, making two equal triangles. Spread peanut butter over bread.

Decorate as follows:

Lay in front of you, point facing you and long side of triangle facing away from you. Place one mini pretzel on each upper corner (the antlers); two raisins in the center of each slice (the eyes) and one mini marshmallow (or maraschino cherry or cinnamon candy if you are making Rudolphins) on the tip of each short point nearest you (the nose). Presto! Two reindeer faces looking back at you.

### Supplemental Books

Jan Brett Christmas Stories

*Trouble With Trolls*

*Gingerbread Baby*

*The Twelve Days of Christmas*

*Christmas Trolls*

*The Night Before Christmas*

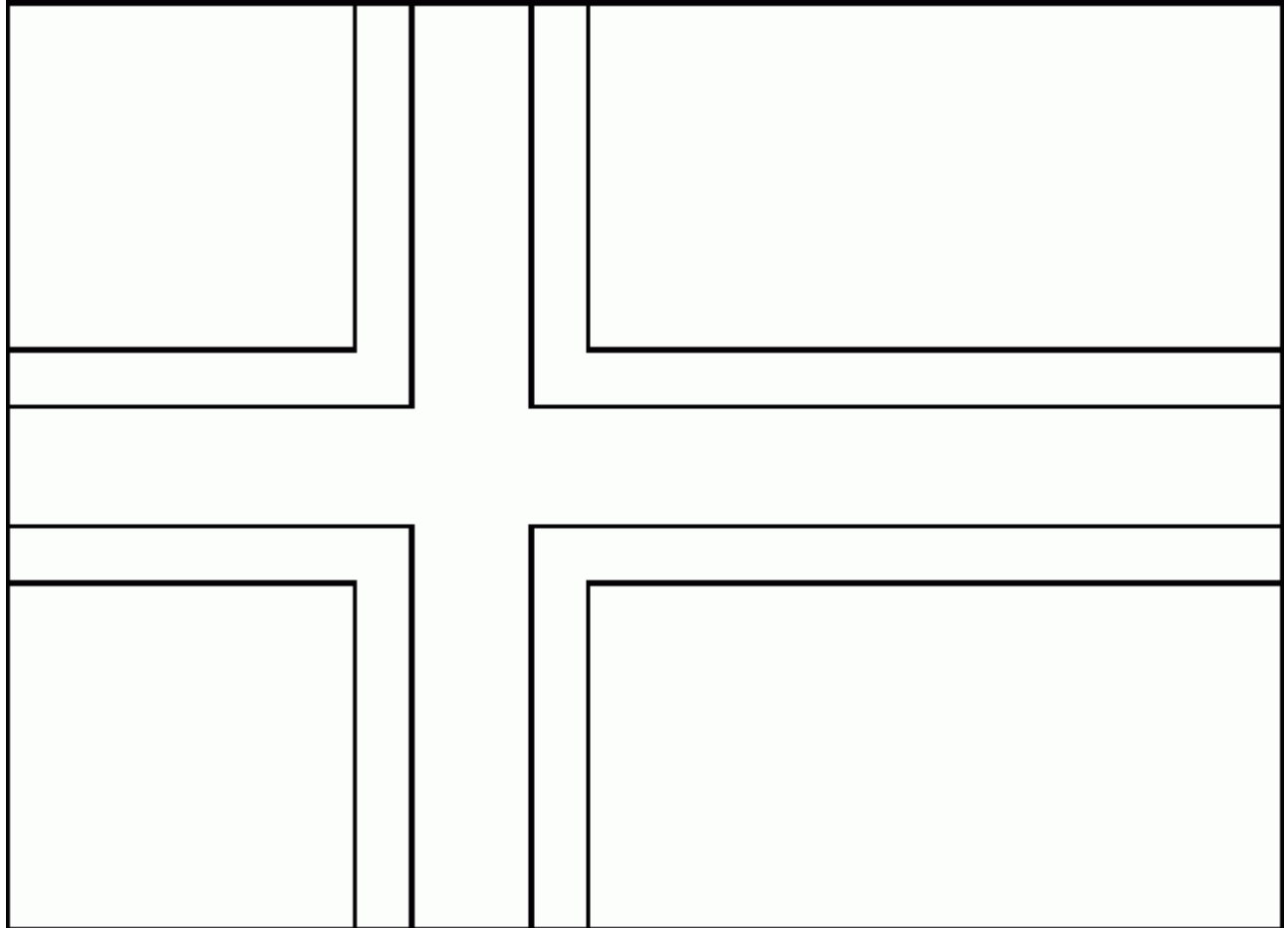
*Who's That Knocking on Christmas Eve?*

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# Norway's Flag

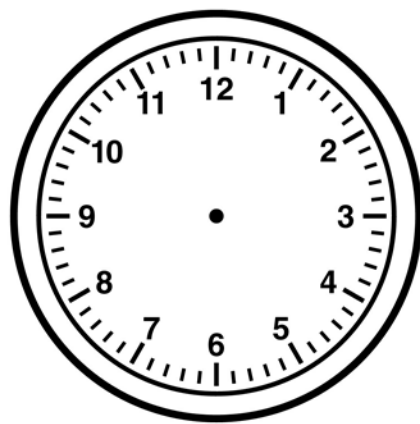
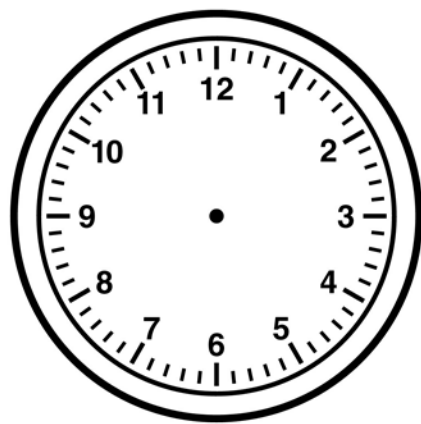


Norway's flag is red with a blue and white Scandinavian cross.

The flag was adopted in 1821.

Directions: Cut book out as one piece. Fold in half. Open. Cut slit to form to flaps. Cut out cover pieces and paste them to the fronts of the flaps. In the blank, write the name of your city. Complete the clocks to show the current times (corresponding to the cities on the flaps).

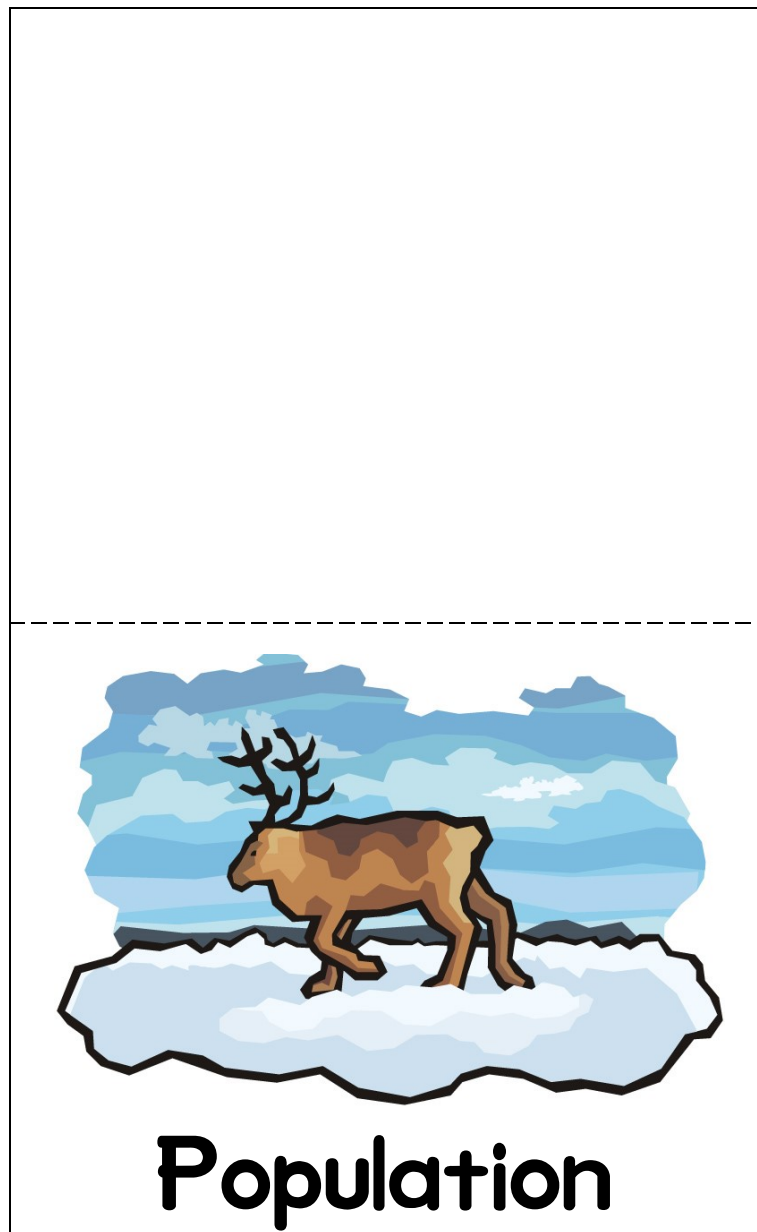
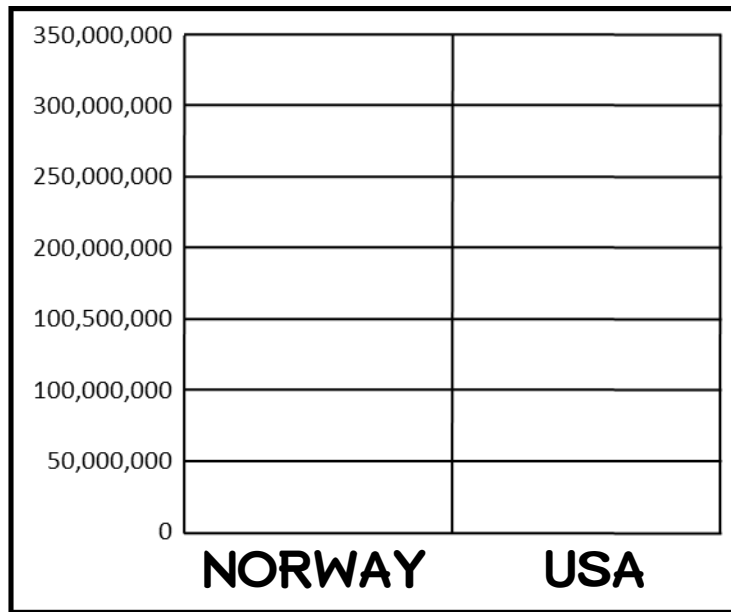
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**What  
time is  
it in  
Oslo?**

**What  
time is  
it in  
?**

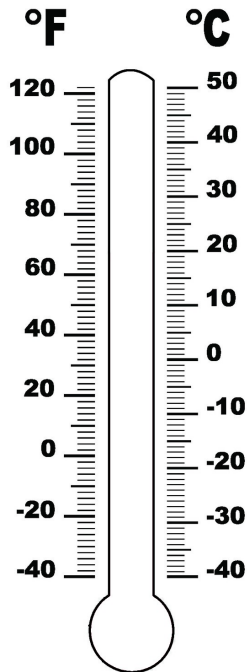
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# Weather Comparison

USA

Weather Conditions



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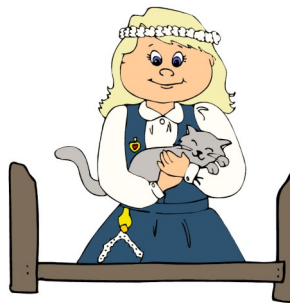
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Norway

Weather Conditions



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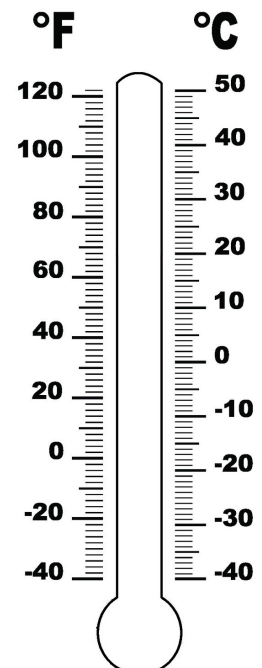
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# Major Industries



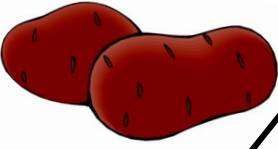

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What is the  
capital city of  
**Norway?**

What is the  
climate like in  
**Norway?**

Print on cardstock. Cut each piece out. Stack together with cover on top and secure with a brass brad. Write two products on each page.

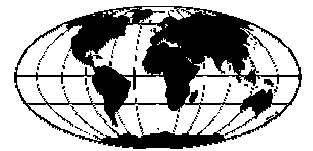
**Agriculture Products  
from  
Norway**



Four empty hexagonal sections for writing products.

Is  
Norway?

Where  
in  
the  
World. . .



What continent is Norway on?

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Find Norway on the map and color it in.

Cut out shutter book and map on solid lines.  
Fold shutter book on dotted lines so that words  
are on cover. Glue map into book under shutters.

# The Wild Christmas Reindeer



**Beginning**

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**Middle**

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**End**

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# Reindeer Names

Traditional Names	Names in the Story	My Names
 Dasher	Bramble	
Dancer	Heather	
Prancer	Windswept	
 Vixen	Lichen	
Comet	Snowball	
Cupid	Crag	
 Donner	Twilight	
Blitzen	Tundra	

# Reindeer



Diet

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Anatomy

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Location

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# December

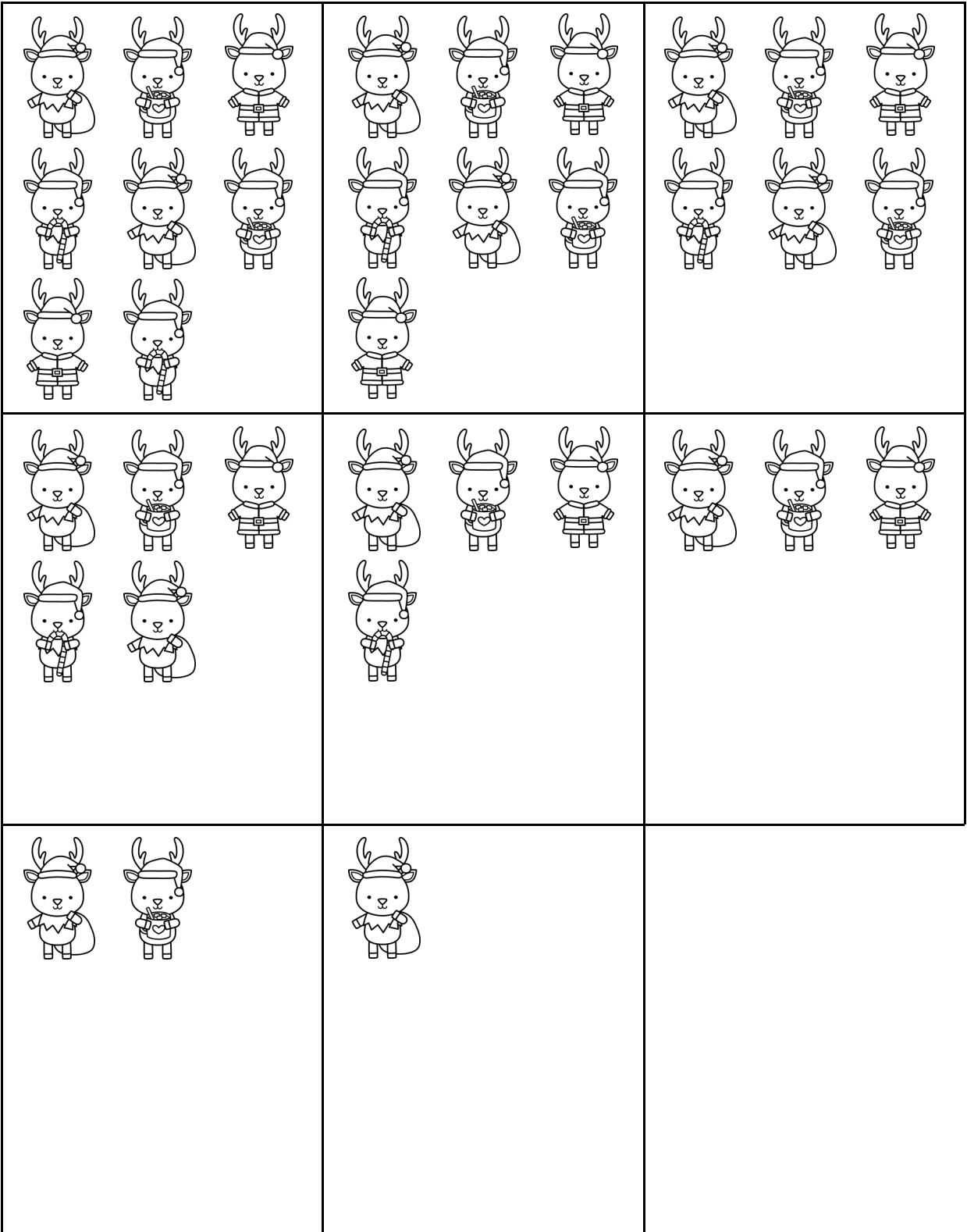


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

[illegible]

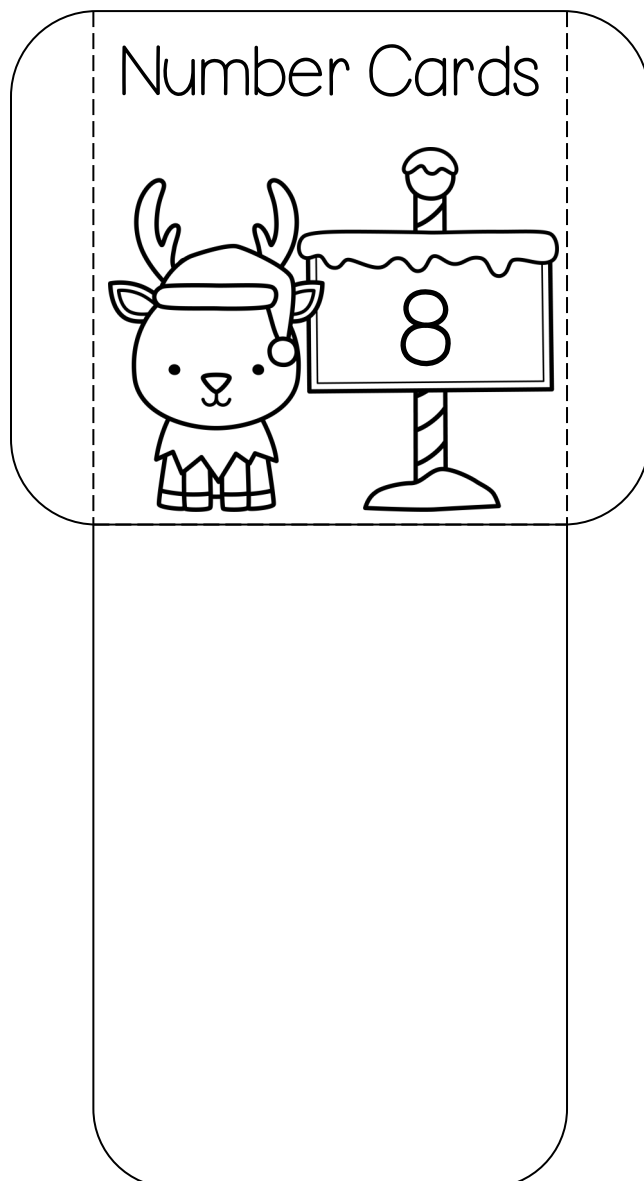
**Directions:** Match the number cards with the reindeer on the next page. You can also have your student put the cards in order. You can also use the cards for addition or subtraction problems.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

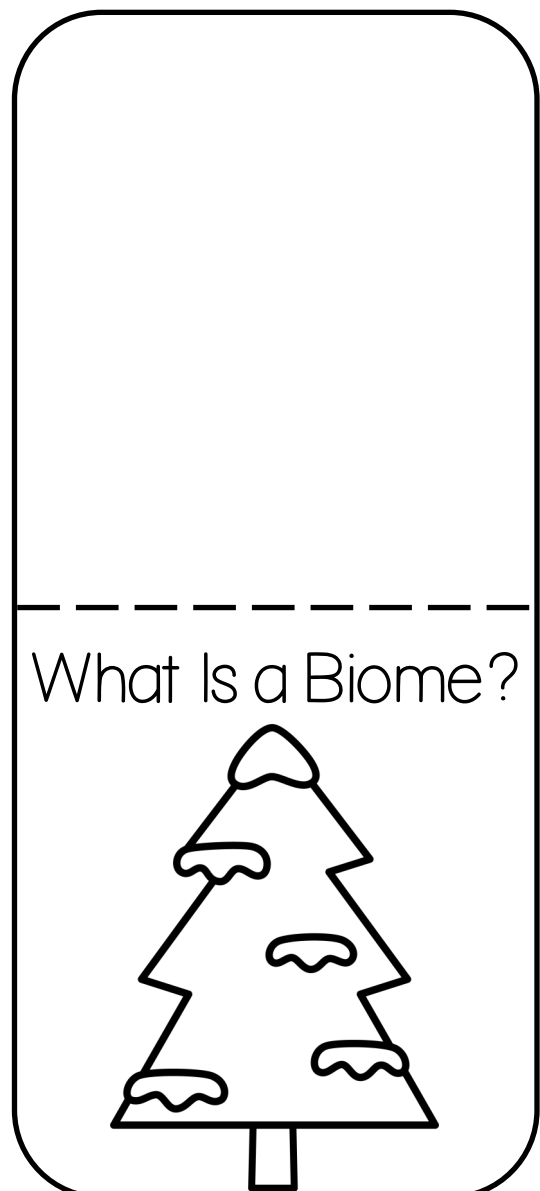


**Directions:** Cut out pocket. Fold back flap up and wrap side flaps around the back and glue down.

Glue the back of your pocket into your lapbook.

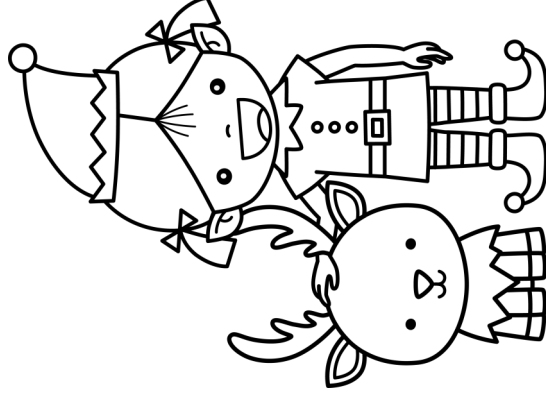


**Directions:** Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half and write the answer inside.



What was  
Teeka like  
in the  
second  
part of  
the story?

## Teeka Changed

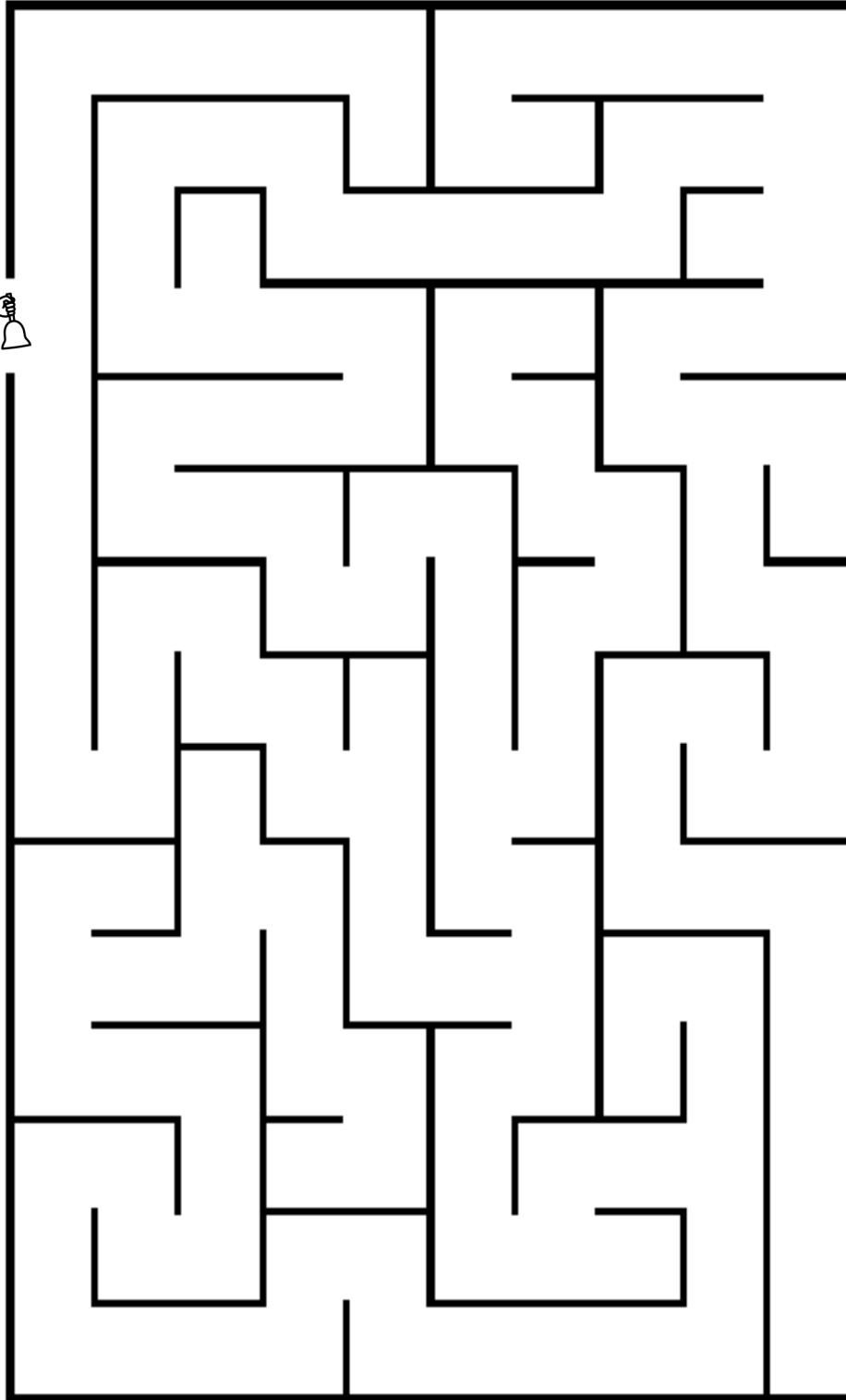


What was  
Teeka like  
in the first  
part of  
the story?

**Directions:** Cut out as one piece. Fold in half. Open. Fold ends to the inside. Fold in half again.



Help Teeka find the wild reindeer.



# If You're Happy and You Know It



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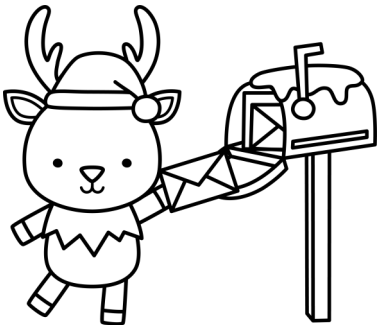

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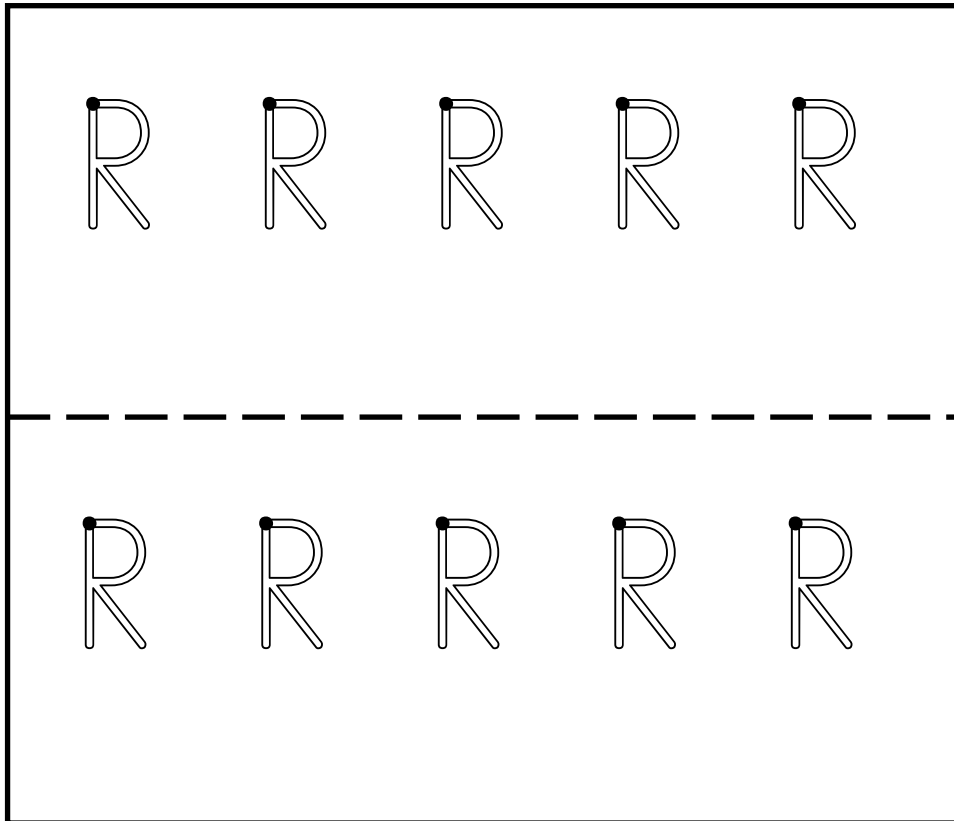
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# Multiplying by Eight

	$8 \times 1 =$	$8 \times 2 =$
$8 \times 3 =$	$8 \times 4 =$	$8 \times 5 =$
$8 \times 6 =$	$8 \times 7 =$	$8 \times 8 =$
$8 \times 9 =$	$8 \times 10 =$	



**Directions:** Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Paste cover to the top.  
Let your student trace the R.

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